

YOUNG STEVE AND VETERAN CHARLIE SHARE HONOURS

BY "ARGUS"

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Woking 2

A SIXTEEN-YEARS-OLD BOY taking his first confident strides in senior football and a grey headed soccerwise veteran with England international memories provided this humdrum parlous game with most of its very few distinguished moments.

If Woking's evergreen Charlie Mortimer could flip back the years and start his football career all over again then he would be proud to have played like young Steve Hyde, Wycombe's right winger.

The first half belonged to little Steve. Playing only his second game for the Wanderers' first team he showed surprising maturity of ideas for one so inexperienced in this class of soccer. He cut out all flamboyancy, beat a man when he had to, and crossed the ball immaculately to his colleagues.

Both Wycombe's goals stemmed from Hyde-sponsored attacks.

INEPT WOKING

But the second half was very much the property of Charlie Mortimore. Angry with a pitifully inept Woking performance, Mortimore switched to the right wing, teased John Back into making mistakes and sent over enough crosses for the Surrey team to have forced an undeserved win.

The Wanderers—still without a home victory—looked like potential conquerors as they built-up a two-goal lead. But doubts flooded in as Woking began to tighten up their pass-

ing and approach work after the interval.

This all-change Wycombe side showed its stitches. The forwards were too negative and tentative in their ideas and the sting was still missing against a defence which was embarrassingly poor.

Weakness at inside forward cut down much of Wycombe's effectiveness. Peter James looked immensely strong but was far too slow for the foreign position of inside-left. Although Cliff Trotter did a lot of foraging it was left to Paul Bates to lie back and scheme the openings.

SUSPECT LEFT

When Mortimore went to work on Wycombe's left flank it looked very suspect. Beck, switched across field, found justifiable difficulties in adjusting his game, while wing-half Johnny Weaver was very inaccurate with his distribution of the ball.

Right-back John Bartholemew was also in trouble against Woking opportunist winger George Harris, who snapped both goals.

The Wanderers had by far the better of the first half but were held to 2-1 at the interval. Bates scored after 20 minutes when he headed home a perfect cross from Hyde and James went through the middle for a second, in the 37th minute, after Hyde and Bates had worked a right-wing move. Woking replied five minutes before the interval when Harris charged through the middle of the Wycombe defence while Collins, his inside-left, lay injured.

Once Mortimore joined Harris to lead a two-pronged Woking attack, the Wanderers defence began to wilt. Harris left everybody flat-footed when he ran in to meet Mortimore's lobbed centre and pick his spot.

There was too much rank bad passing for this to be an exciting game, but both goals had escapes in the closing stages.